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EXAMINER
CHEN, QING

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/661,504	Applicant(s) SUGIYAMA, TAKAAKI
	Examiner Qing Chen	Art Unit 2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>29 June 2007</u>.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-10</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office action is in response to the amendment filed on June 29, 2007.

2.   **Claims 1-10** are pending.

3.   **Claims 1, 6, and 7** have been amended.

4.   The objections to Claims 1-10 are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments to the

claims.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   **Claims 1-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Cheyer et**

al. (US 6,851,115) in view of **Tadokoro et al.** (US 2002/0052796).

As per **Claim 1**, Cheyer et al. disclose:

-      a service acquisition unit that acquires plural services available to a user by using user

information *(see Figure 4: 402; Figure 6: 448; Column 6: 10-13, "The facilitator agent*

interprets these requests ... "; Column 7: 58-63, "A user interface ... is responsible for accepting

user input, sending requests to the facilitator ... "; Column 8: 25-31, "The notification agent 446

is a meta-agent, as it makes use of rules concerning the optimal use of different output modalities (email, fax, speech generation over the telephone) plus information about an individual user's preferences 448 to determine the best way of relaying a message through available media transfer application agents."); and

- a cooperation instruction information creation unit that creates the cooperation instruction information by using the plural services acquired by the service acquisition unit, wherein each of the plural services performs a specific processing on document data *(see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figures 6 and 11; Column 6: 49-55, "Application agents 404 denote specialists that provide a collection of services of a particular sort. These services could be domain-independent technologies (such as speech recognition, natural language processing 410, email, and some forms of data retrieval and data mining) or user-specific or domain-specific (such as a travel planning and reservations agent).": Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL).": Column 18: 23-25, "... a fax agent might fax a document to a certain person only after requesting and receiving a fax number for that person.": Column 24: 43-47, "... a printer agent 1204, defining the solvable print(Object,Parameters), can be defined by the following pseudo-code ...").*

However, Cheyer et al. do not disclose:

- wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

-    wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a

service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed *(see Figures 8 and 22;*

Paragraph [0068], "The common information of state 134 is a table for storing information

related to the services (including not only common services, but also services classified by area

and by cooperated company) used by all the users. The common information of state 134

includes fields of user code 801, service code 802, cooperated company user code 803, state

code 804, and service providing time 805."; Paragraph [0069], "The state code 804 stores the

various states that occur when the user uses a service. For example, the state code 804 stores

such states as login and logout, or start and end."; Paragraph [0101], "Where the state code is

changed (that is, new row data is added to the common information of state 134), the system

reads the user information 131 in step Sd30, then obtains an area code 503 corresponding to the

user code 801 of the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 in step Sd40.

Then, the system adds the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 as

described above to the information of state classified by area 135 together with the area code

obtained in the previous step in the next step Sd50. ").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et

al. to include wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a

service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed. The modification would be

obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to monitor the state of the

user for market research *(see Tadokoro et al. – Paragraph [0004]).*

As per **Claim 2**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and <u>Cheyer et al.</u> further

disclose:

- a retrieval unit that retrieves a service, wherein the service acquisition unit transmits

user information and makes a retrieval request for a service available to the user to the retrieval

unit, and acquires plural services available to the user in response to the retrieval request *(see*

Figure 4: 404; Column 7: 24-38, "... the facilitator sends that client a request ... The agent

parses this request, processes it, and returns answers or status reports to the facilitator. In

processing a request, the client agent can make use of a variety of infrastructure capabilities

provided ...").

As per **Claim 3**, the rejection of **Claim 2** is incorporated; however, <u>Cheyer et al.</u> do not

disclose:

- wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the

retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions

on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services

available to the user.

<u>Tadokoro et al.</u> disclose:

- wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the

retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions

on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services

available to the user *(see Figure 5; Paragraph [0061], "The user information 131 is a table for*

storing various information items of a user who can receive services provided by the service

providing system 101. The user information table 131 includes fields of user code 501, password

502, area code 503, account holder code 504, and account holder name 505."; Paragraph

[0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by

the user to the management of common service 121(Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code

and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting

the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18).").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et

al. to include wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the

retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions

on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services

available to the user. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art

would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network.

As per **Claim 4**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Cheyer et al. do not

disclose:

- an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a

restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user

information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing

devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an

inquiry result of the inquiry unit.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit *(see Figure 4: 121; Paragraph [0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by the user to the management of common service 121(Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18).").*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tadokoro et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et al. to include an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network.

As per **Claim 5**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service available to the user for each of functions constituting a job flow *(see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed.")*.

As per **Claim 6**, the rejection of **Claim 5** is incorporated; and <u>Cheyer et al.</u> further disclose:

- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service having minimum restrictions for each of the functions constituting the job flow, and the cooperation instruction information creation unit creates the cooperation instruction information by associating the respective plural services acquired by the service acquisition unit with the respective functions constituting the job flow *(see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable. "; Column 16: 39-43, "... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice.")*.

As per **Claim 7**, <u>Cheyer et al.</u> disclose:

- creating cooperation instruction information by using the acquired plural services, wherein each of the plural services performs a specific processing on document data *(see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figures 6 and 11; Column 6: 49-55, "Application agents 404 denote specialists that provide a collection of services of a particular sort. These services could be domain-independent technologies (such as speech recognition, natural language processing 410, email, and some forms of data retrieval and data mining) or user-specific or domain-specific (such as a travel planning and reservations agent)."; Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL)."; Column 18: 23-25, "... a fax agent might fax a document to a certain person only after requesting and receiving a fax number for that person."; Column 24: 43-47, "... a printer agent 1204, defining the solvable print(Object,Parameters), can be defined by the following pseudo-code ...").*

However, Cheyer et al. do not disclose:

- acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective plural services, wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed.

Tadokoro et al. disclose:

- acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective plural services, wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed *(see Figures 5, 8, and 22;*

Paragraph [0061], "The user information 131 is a table for storing various information items of a user who can receive services provided by the service providing system 101. The user information table 131 includes fields of user code 501, password 502, area code 503, account holder code 504, and account holder name 505."; Paragraph [0068], "The common information of state 134 is a table for storing information related to the services (including not only common services, but also services classified by area and by cooperated company) used by all the users. The common information of state 134 includes fields of user code 801, service code 802, cooperated company user code 803, state code 804, and service providing time 805.";

Paragraph [0069], "The state code 804 stores the various states that occur when the user uses a service. For example, the state code 804 stores such states as login and logout, or start and end."; Paragraph [0076], "The service access program 321 then sends the user code and the password entered by the user to the management of common service 121(Sa30 in FIG. 18). Checking the user code and the password, the management of common service 121 displays the screen svc01 for starting the common service (Sa40 in FIG. 18)."; Paragraph [0101], "Where the state code is changed (that is, new row data is added to the common information of state 134), the system reads the user information 131 in step Sd30, then obtains an area code 503 corresponding to the user code 801 of the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 in step Sd40. Then, the system adds the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 as described above to the information of state classified by area 135 together with the area code obtained in the previous step in the next step Sd50.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of <u>Tadokoro et al.</u> into the teaching of <u>Cheyer et</u>

al. to include acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective plural services, wherein the user information includes the present state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is executed. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing information on a network and to monitor the state of the user for market research *(see Tadokoro et al. – Paragraph [0004])*.

As per **Claim 8**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and <u>Cheyer et al.</u> further disclose:

- wherein in the cooperation instruction information creation step, services constituting a job flow are selected from the acquired plural services, and the cooperation instruction information is created by using the selected services *(see Column 16: 39-43, "... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice.")*.

As per **Claim 9**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and <u>Cheyer et al.</u> further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, the service available to the user is acquired for each of functions constituting a job flow *(see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to*

submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed.").

As per **Claim 10**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and <u>Cheyer et al.</u> further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, a service having minimum restrictions is acquired for each of the functions constituting the job flow *(see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable.").*

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant's arguments filed on June 29, 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, Applicant argues that:

a)   In col. 7, lines 58-63, Cheyer merely discloses a user interface that is responsible for accepting user input. The user interface accepts the user inputs and sends the user name and password to a facilitator. Cheyer fails to disclose or suggest a service acquisition unit that

acquires plural services available to a user by using the present state of the user at the time a

service is executed.

Tadokoro fails to cure the deficiencies of Cheyer. Tadokoro, at paragraph [0068], merely

discloses that a table 134 stores information related to real-world services available to" users.

The common information state table 134 include a user identification code 801, service code

802, cooperated company user code 803, proximity and timing codes 804 and 805. Tadokoro

merely discloses a database containing user information and fails to disclose any acquisition unit

that acquires plural services.

Even if Tadokoro discloses user information that includes the present state of the user at

the time a service is executed, the combination of Cheyer and Tadokoro fails to disclose or

suggest a service acquisition unit that uses the present state of the user at the time a service is

executed to acquire plural services available to a user, as featured in independent claim 1 and

similarly featured in independent claim 7.

Examiner's response:

a)   Examiner disagrees. <u>Cheyer et al.</u> clearly disclose a service acquisition unit that acquires

plural services available to a user by using user information *(see Figure 4: 402; Figure 6: 448;*

Column 6: 10-13, "The facilitator agent interprets these requests ... "; Column 7: 58-63, "A user

interface ... is responsible for accepting user input, sending requests to the facilitator ... ";

Column 8: 25-31, "The notification agent 446 is a meta-agent, as it makes use of rules

concerning the optimal use of different output modalities (email, fax, speech generation over the

telephone) plus information about an individual user's preferences 448 to determine the best way

of relaying a message through available media transfer application agents. ").

Examiner would like to point out that <u>Tadokoro et al.</u> are relied upon solely for the

rejection of the particular claim limitation "wherein the user information includes the present

state of the user at the time a service is executed, and is updated each time the service is

executed," which <u>Tadokoro et al.</u> clearly disclose *(see Figures 8 and 22; Paragraph [0068],*

"The common information of state 134 is a table for storing information related to the services

(including not only common services, but also services classified by area and by cooperated

company) used by all the users. The common information of state 134 includes fields of user

code 801, service code 802, cooperated company user code 803, state code 804, and service

providing time 805. "; Paragraph [0069], "The state code 804 stores the various states that

occur when the user uses a service. For example, the state code 804 stores such states as login

and logout, or start and end. "; Paragraph [0101], "Where the state code is changed (that is,

new row data is added to the common information of state 134), the system reads the user

information 131 in step Sd30, then obtains an area code 503 corresponding to the user code 801

of the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 in step Sd40. Then, the

system adds the row data added newly to the common information of state 134 as described

above to the information of state classified by area 135 together with the area code obtained in

the previous step in the next step Sd50. ").

Note that <u>Cheyer et al.</u> disclose a user interface to accept user input (user information)

and that a user's preferences (user information) are used to deliver a message through the various

application agents. As previously pointed out in the Non-Final Rejection (mailed on 05/03/2007),

Cheyer et al. and Tadokoro et al. are analogous art, since both inventions are in the same field of endeavor. Therefore, the rejections are proper based upon the combined teachings of Cheyer et al. and Tadokoro et al.

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Qing Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-1071. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen, can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

QC / ac
August 1, 2007